

## Carpenter's Letter

(Continued from Seventh Page.)

thing and at any time. The scouts, after fighting all day, will sit up half the night and gamble. The children gamble, pitching centavos. You see women playing cards upon the street in front of their stores. Every other man has a game cock, which he is willing to back against all comers, and every day the gambling goes on in the center of the plaza. The stakes there are high, and I saw several hundred dollars change hands in one game one afternoon.

The greatest gambling of Macabebes town takes place Saturday night. At this time there are immense tables put up in the plaza and everyone comes out to take his part in the game. On one of the tables the different games of chance are played and on the other are dishes of salads, fish, meats, cakes, etc. The man who wins at certain of the games has a right to select any one of the dishes on the eating table. He can take this home for Sunday, or, if he prefers, treat his friends on the plaza. The participation in the gambling is general and all the officers of the municipality are present. The band plays and the people come out and promenade up and down.

### How the Macabebes Do Business.

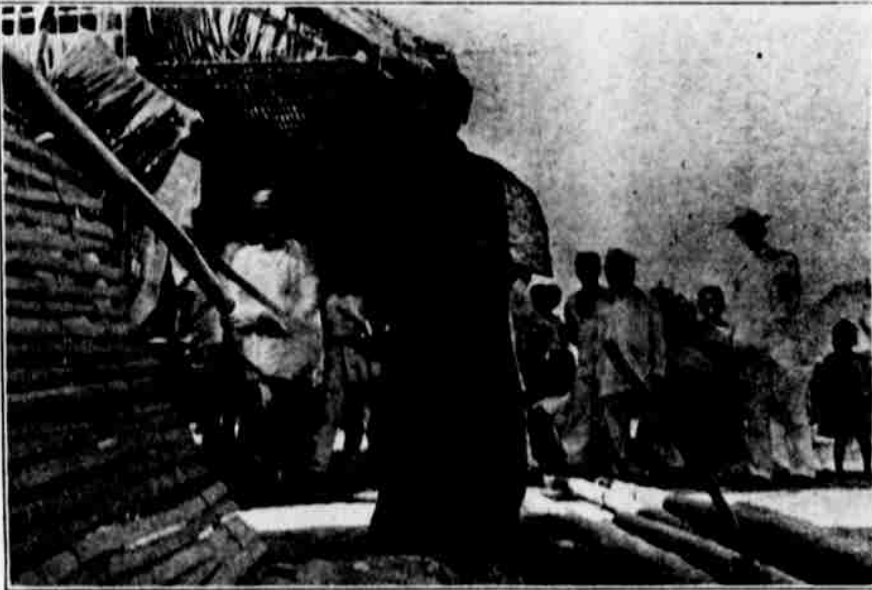
I have been much interested in watching the girls shop in Macabebes town. There are no stores except the sheds or booths in the plaza. These sheds have bamboo floors and walls and roofs of loose thatch. They form, in fact, a great bazaar of cells opening out upon the street, each of which is a store. The merchants are all women and many of them very pretty women. Each merchant sits down on the floor among her goods. If she is selling cloth, it is piled up about her. Pieces of bright-colored calicos are hung on poles

about the situation. He is a straight, fine-looking, brown-skinned, smooth-faced Macabebe of about 40 years of age. He told me that he was very glad the Americans had come to the islands and that he doubted not we would eventually find them a profitable investment. He told me that his people liked the soldiers and that many of them were studying English in order that they might be better acquainted with us and our government.

The presidente here holds much the same place as one of our mayors. He is the chief officer of the town and is elected by the people. In addition to him there is a vice president, a city council and a civil guard or police. The town has a little prison or calaboose in which criminals are confined. The people are, however, very orderly. Their chief vice is gambling, drunkenness being almost unknown. They are like the Tagalos in that they have very quiet tempers, but when enraged are revengeful. They carry their hatred a long way and usually fight to the death. They do not regard life as much account and in their quarrels slash at one another with bolos.

### Very Religious.

The Macabebes are a religious people. They are Catholics and all attend church regularly. They have native priests and decidedly object to the Spanish friars. Every afternoon at 6 o'clock the bells in the tower of the plaza ring out the angelus. At this time everyone, whether on the street or at home, bows his head and says his prayers. If at home the children salute the father and mother by kissing their hands. They have a curious method of dividing the day into morning and evening, the division being marked by the ringing of the angelus. Salutation, up to that time is "Good morning." After the angelus bell



FAIR MACABEBE MERCHANT.

over her head and laid over other poles at the back and sides, so that she is framed, as it were, in dry goods.

If you wish to buy you must expect to bargain, for as a rule the maiden merchant has no fixed price and expects you to jaw her down to at least 25 per cent less than she asks. If you make a good purchase she will offer you a cigarette or a chew of beetle nut, and the chances are that she may smoke a cigarette or a cigar at the time she is talking to you. I photographed one of the prettiest merchants in the store and afterward persuaded her to step out into the sun and pose for my camera.

I am told that the woman are very good traders. They manage the money matters of their respective families and there is not one of them who does not aid her husband in building up his income. The storekeepers carry their goods to their houses every night and bring them back every morning. They watch the markets and know when to buy and sell.

Among the poorer classes of Macabebes the women do a great deal of work. They labor in the fields, doing all kind of farming. They may be seen peddling in the markets and you meet them on the country roads going along with great burdens on their heads. They are, I think, better looking than the Tagalos. They are said to be very virtuous and to make excellent wives.

### Some Are Rich.

In company with Lieutenant Chadwick I called on a number of the leading citizens of Macabebes town. There are many rich among them and some of the houses which we visited were large and well furnished.

The living rooms are on the second floor, the entrance usually being from stairs on the side. Every house had its piano and in some the women played for us, and that as well, indeed much better, than the average girl of the states.

The Macabebes are very fond of music. They know many of our favorite tunes and among those which I heard today were "After the Ball is Over," "There'll Be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight" and "Louisiana Lou." We had also some pieces from the best of the German composers, including much classical music. In nearly every case the host complained of the tune of the piano, saying that owing to the insurrection he had been unable to secure a musician from Manila to put it in order. The boys of several of the families took their places at the piano and played equally well with their sisters.

Later on we called upon the presidente and had a chat with him and his officials

## Called Back

Cincinnati Enquirer: Hon. Charles J. Christie, while on his recent trip from New York City, was seated quietly in the sleeper perusing a magazine and was greatly annoyed by the repeated visits of a little girl, aged 4, whose mother occupied the opposite section of the car. The young one would walk across the aisle and endeavor to climb on Christie's lap and failing in this snatched the magazine from his hand several times. Finally, tiring of the girl's importunities, Christie turned to the mother and politely asked:

"What do you call your child, madam?"

"Ethel," answered the woman, proudly.

"Please call her, then," answered Christie, grimly.

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"I have no doubt it is, but would you mind telling me your name?"

"I'm—Mr. Bungo."

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### Ak-Sar-Ben V

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